

Meagher Co FSA Office
4147 Highway 89 South
PO Box J
Wht Spgr Spgs MT 59645

Phone: (406) 547-3521
FAX: (406) 547-3912

County Committee Members
Ellen Berg
Scott Jackson
Bert Williams

FSA Office Personnel
Kathryn Hiner – CED
Margaret Buckingham – PT
Bill Ballard – FLM
(406) 657-6135

Dates to Remember:

October – CRP Payments begin being issued

October 12-14 – Young Ag Leaders Conference, Great Falls

October 13 – Deadline for removal of hay from CRP Emergency Haying and Managed Haying

October 15 – CDP Signup Begins

October 26 & 27 – Farmers Union Annual Convention, Great Falls

November 2 – Final date for COC ballots to be mailed to producers

November 14-16 – Montana Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention, Bozeman

November 11-13 – Montana Farm Bureau Annual Convention, Missoula

December 1 – NAP application closing date for Honey

December 3 – COC ballots must be returned by close of business

December 4-7 – Grain Growers Annual Convention, Great Falls

December 14-16 – Stockgrowers Annual Convention, Billings



Meagher County

October 2007

Livestock Disaster Programs Underway

Signup for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) began September 10, 2007.

These two disaster programs provide benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths, feed losses, and additional feed costs caused by natural disasters that occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007.

To be eligible for LIP and LCP, an owner or contract grower's livestock must have been located in a county or contiguous county designated a natural disaster by the President or declared by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Livestock producers incurring livestock losses in 2005 or 2006 calendar years may only select one year in which to receive assistance.

Meagher County Eligible for 2006

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

To be eligible for LCP, producers must have:

- Either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock (but not both for the same livestock) on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period (s); and
- Suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feed, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of an eligible disaster event (s) during the applicable disaster period (s) and the feed lost or additional incurred feed costs were intended for use with eligible livestock.

To apply, producers must complete form FSA-901 at their local office; bring adequate proof that the feed loss or incurred additional feed costs were for the claimed eligible livestock and occurred as a direct result of an eligible disaster event during an eligible disaster period (s) in the calendar year for which the benefits are being requested.

For detailed explanations of eligible livestock and eligibility requirements, logon to the Montana FSA website at

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

To be eligible for LIP, the owner's livestock must have:

- Died in an eligible county as a direct result of an eligible disaster event after Jan. 1, 2005 and before Feb. 28, 2007; must have died no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable disaster period (s) but before Feb. 28, 2007; and in the calendar year for which benefits are requested.
- Been maintained for a commercial farming operation on the day they died; and
- not been produced for reasons other than commercial farming. This includes wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes, such as hunting, pets, roping or for show.

Applications should submit form FSA-900 to the local office. The producer should include a copy of the grower contract if they are a contract grower and any other supporting documents required for determining eligibility. Supporting documents must show evidence of loss, current physical location of livestock in inventory, and location of the livestock at the time of death. The quantity and kind of livestock that died as a direct result of the eligible disaster event may be documents by purchase records, veterinarian records, bank or other loan papers and any other documents verifying the death of the livestock.

Public Meeting – October 2nd

A public meeting was held October 2nd at the Meagher Co Senior Center to discuss the planned closing of the local FSA Office. Comments were heard from producers, local businesses, representatives of Senators' Baucus and Testor and Representative Rehberg's office as well as Ron de Jung of the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Following the public meetings throughout the State, the MT State Committee will submit a final plan to Washington(DAFO) and the National Food & Agriculture Committee(NFAC).

Details of the restructuring plan as well as background information can be found on the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> under the "I Want to Section". Click on the link titled Learn more about FSA's office closure".

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Signup Begins October 15

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.

Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.



CRP Payments Begin In October

FSA will begin issuing Conservation Reserve Program payments to eligible producers in October, 2007. In Montana, FSA will issue more than \$116.9 million dollars to eligible CRP participants. The payments are annual rental payments earned on 3,480,849 acres enrolled in CRP in Montana.

OVERVIEW

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CRP, annual rental payments and cost-share assistance can be received to establish long-term, resource-conserving covers on eligible farmland.

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes annual rental payments based on the agriculture rental value of the land, and it provides cost-share assistance for up to 50 percent of the participant's costs in establishing approved conservation practices. Participants enroll in CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years.

BENEFITS

CRP protects millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion and is designed to safeguard the Nation's natural resources. By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams. Acreage enrolled in the CRP is planted to resource-conserving vegetative covers, making the program a

major contributor to increased wildlife populations in many parts of the country.



Annual Notice of Payment Eligibility to Producers

FSA program benefits may not be provided to any producer until the applicable payment eligibility determinations are made.

A producer will remain ineligible until all required forms for the specific situation are provided.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility determinations may be initiated by the FSA County Committee or requested by the producer. Statutory provisions require that entities earning program benefits provide FSA with the names, addresses, and ID numbers for the members of the entity. Furthermore, entities earning payments must inform their members of the requirements for designating "permitted entities."

All Payment Eligibility forms (CCC-502) submitted by a producer are subject to spot check through the End-of-Year Review process. Farming operations selected for an End-of-Year Review will be required to submit documents to verify their contributions of capital, land, equipment, labor, and management.

Individuals, joint operations, or entities which are determined to be "not actively engaged in farming," will be ineligible for Direct and Counter Cyclical (DCP) Payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's), Marketing Loan Gains, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments, and possible Disaster related program payments such as the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Payments and the Quality Loss Program (QLP) Payments.

Spouses may be determined to be two "Persons" only if this determination is requested in writing and the applicable requirements are met by each spouse.

Meagher Co FSA
PO Box J
Wht Spgr Spgs 59645

Presort Standard
U S Postage
PAID
Bozeman MT 59715
Permit #54

Inside this Issue

**Livestock Disaster Programs
Underway
CDP Signup Begins
NAP – For Honey Producers
CRP Payments Begin
Annual Notice of Payment
Eligibility for Producers**

Important Dates to Remember

**October – CRP Payments begin being issued
October 13 – Deadline for removal of hay from
CRP Emergency Haying and Managed Haying
October 15 – CDP Signup Begins
November 2 – Final date for COC ballots to be
mailed to producers
December 1 – NAP application closing date for
Honey
December 3 – COC ballots must be returned by
close of business**



Container Approved for Honey

Honey producers requesting marketing assistance loans may now pack their honey in approved five-gallon plastic containers. The containers must hold about 60 pounds of honey, have a tight fitting cover, have strong handles, and be lined with an FDA-approved low-density polyethylene liner.

National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) developed policies for implementing NAIS for protecting U.S. livestock and poultry from potentially devastating pests and diseases through an identification system that enabled faster response with more precision.

NAIS consists of three components: 1) premise registration, 2) animal identification, and 3) animal tracking. Premise registration is the foundation of the NAIS and is the first component to be implemented.

Premise registration is voluntary, free, quick, and does not commit producers to participate in the other components of NAIS. To find out how to register a premise, visit USDA's NAIS website at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/naais/index.shtml>.